

ATJ Commission Meeting
January 5, 2024
ATJ In-Person (with video appearance option)

Location: New Mexico State Bar, 5121 Masthead St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

12:00 – 2:30 pm

****Video attendees should plan on joining the meeting at 12:30 p.m.****

In attendance:

Erin O’Connell (ATJ Co-Chair)	Lisa Giandomenico (2 nd JDC)
Aaron Hollman (AOC)	Mark Fidel (CLS Commissioner, Chair)
Alex Flores (ATJ Commission)	Mercedes Murphy (Chief Judge 7 th JDC)
Aja Brooks (ATJ Commission)	Michael McGuire (SCLO)
Bella Zayani (NMLA)	Michelle Garcia (NMLA)
Bette Fleishman (Pegasus Law)	Natalie Meyers (LREP)
DeAnne Romero (2 nd JDC)	Paige Diem (USBC)
Doug Echols (ATJ Commission)	Peggy Cadwell (AOC)
Emily Alvarez (Catholic Charities)	Ramon Maestas (2 nd JDC)
Gary Housepian (DRNM)	Rudy Sanchez (DNA)
Hailey Zock (SWLC)	Shannon Bacon (ATJ Commission)
Jeff Wechsler (ATJ Commission)	Tesha Henderson (AOC)
John Greacen (ATJ Chair Broad Self-Help)	Therese Yanan (NADLC)
Juan Abeyta (ATJ Commission)	Twila Hoon Witz (AOC)
Kasey Daniels (MMH)	Winter Torres (NM Eviction)
Kathy Gallagher	Zach Addison (NMLA)
	Zach Ives (COA)

Item 2: Minutes Approved from December 8, 2023

- Shannon Bacon moved to approve minutes, which Juan Abeyta seconded. No objections. The minutes are approved.

Item 3: Introduction of New Commission Members: Juan Abeyta, Alexander Flores, Douglas Echols, and Teague Gonzalez

- Each new commissioner gave a quick background as their background.

Item 4: Civil Legal Services Commission Legislative update (Mark Fidel)

- Mark Fidel, Chair of the Civil Legal Services Commission (CLSC), gave an update prior to the 2024 30-day Legislative session that included the history and purpose of the CLSC, and the importance of civil legal service providers to engage effectively with their legislators to demonstrate the value of their services. The CLSC is statutorily created, there is an RFP process for funding from the CLSC, and funding for the CLSC includes an annual appropriation from the Legislature. CLSC contracts are awarded to civil legal service providers, and the contracts are managed by the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). Neither the CLS Commission nor the ATJ Commission can lobby the Legislature for CLSC funding, but providers and individuals can. The ATJ Commission, through its work, has historically set the priorities for the CLSC, and the ATJ Commission periodically works to inform and educate the Legislature and legislators as to the importance and need for civil legal services in our State. This year’s CLSC fund should be one of the highest seen – how to maintain that level is a question as expectations would be that the floor is the high point, but the reality is that the budget could change from its current boom status. The meeting also touched on the upcoming department budget reviews and the importance of attending these hearings to advocate for their needs.

Item 5: Other Business (Erin O'Connell)

- The Supreme Court authorized the internet portal stakeholder committee to convene and the Governance Committee of ATJ is putting together a diverse group of members to participate in the stakeholder group.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.